

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A longitudinal granular oxide recording medium, comprising:

(a) at least one non-magnetic layer with body-centered cubic atomic structure with a  $\langle 200 \rangle$  preferred growth orientation,

(b) at least one interlayer with hexagonal close packed atomic structure and with a  $\langle 11-20 \rangle$  preferred growth orientation,

(c) at least one magnetic oxide-containing granular magnetic layer with hexagonal close packed atomic structure and with a  $\langle 11-20 \rangle$  preferred growth orientation,

wherein the interlayer comprises at least two layers: a first interlayer,  $IL_1$ , located above first layer (a) and comprising a Co-X alloy, wherein X is selected from the group consisting of Cr, Pt, Ta, B, W, Mo, Ru, Si, Cu, Ag, Ge, Nb, Fe, Ni, Au and combinations thereof, and a second interlayer,  $IL_2$ , comprising a Ru-Y alloy, wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of Rh, Ir, Cr, Re, Co, V, W, Ta, Zr, Hf, Ti, Mo, Au and combinations thereof.

13- 14 (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The longitudinal granular oxide recording medium of claim 12, wherein the first interlayer comprises at least 50 at. % of Co and the second interlayer comprises at least 50 at. % of Ru.

16. (Original) The longitudinal granular oxide recording medium of claim 12, wherein the magnetic oxide-containing granular magnetic layer comprises magnetic crystal grains that are substantially isolated by an inter-granular region comprising a non-magnetic substance.

17. (Original) The longitudinal granular oxide recording medium of claim 16, wherein there is substantially no diffusion of the non-magnetic substance from the magnetic crystal grains to the inter-granular region.

18. (Original) The longitudinal granular oxide recording medium of claim 12, further comprising a substrate having a textured surface and the magnetic oxide-containing granular magnetic layer has an OR-Mrt of greater than 1.0.

19. (Original) The longitudinal granular oxide recording medium of claim 12, wherein a full-width at half-maximum of a rocking curve of the magnetic oxide-containing granular magnetic layer in a [11-20] direction is less than 10°.

20. (Original) The longitudinal granular oxide recording medium of claim 12, wherein a full-width at half-maximum of a rocking curve of the magnetic oxide-containing granular magnetic

layer in a [11-20] direction is less than  $7^\circ$  and the magnetic oxide-containing granular magnetic layer has an OR-Mrt of greater than 1.4.

21-33. (Canceled)